Is the electromagnetic field a source of a mediating field in hidden sector?

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Abstract

We continue the discussion of a proposed model of hidden sector of the Universe, consisting of sterile spin-1/2 Dirac fermions ("sterinos"), sterile spin-0 bosons ("sterons") with spontaneously nonzero vacuum expectation value, and sterile nongauge mediating bosons ("A bosons") described by an antisymmetric-tensor field (of dimension one). The Standard-Model electromagnetic field (of dimension two) multiplied by the steron vacuum expectation value becomes in a spontaneous way a source of A-boson field mediating new weak interactions in hidden sector and providing — due to the action of electromagnetic field in both sectors — a weak coupling between hidden and Standard-Model sectors ("photonic portal"). The proposed photonic portal emphasizes even more the role of electromagnetic field in the structure of the Universe.

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1. Introduction

In a recent work [1,2], we have conjectured the existence of a sterile nongauge antisymmetrictensor field $A_{\mu\nu}$ (of dimension one) that is weakly coupled to the pair $\varphi F_{\mu\nu}$ of a sterile spin-0 boson field φ and the Standard-Model electromagnetic field $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\mu}A_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu}A_{\mu}$ (of dimension two), as well as to the pair $\bar{\psi}\psi$ of a spin-1/2 fermion field ψ and its anifermion counterpart. So, such a conjecture leads to the new weak interaction

$$-\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{f}\left(\varphi F_{\mu\nu} + \zeta\bar{\psi}\sigma_{\mu\nu}\psi\right)A^{\mu\nu}\,,\tag{1}$$

where \sqrt{f} and $\sqrt{f}\zeta$ denote two dimensionless small coupling constants (f > 0). The interaction (1) appears in our model in addition to the familiar Standard-Model weak interaction (and also the very weak universal gravity).

Thus, in our model, the sterile field $A_{\mu\nu}$ mediates new weak interactions within a hypothetical hidden sector of the Universe (responsible for cold dark matter), consisting of sterile spin-1/2 fermions ψ ("sterinos"), sterile spin-0 bosons φ ("sterons") and sterile nongauge spin-1 bosons $A_{\mu\nu}$ ("A bosons") of two kinds with parity — and +. It also provides a new weak coupling between the hidden and Standard-Model sectors due to the action of Standard-Model electromagnetic field $F_{\mu\nu}$ in both sectors (after the Standard-Model electroweak symmetry is spontaneously broken by the Standard-Model Higgs mechanism). We have called this second way of mediation the "photonic portal" to the hidden sector. Thus, our approach to the hidden sector differs from the popular one, where the "Higgs portal" to the hidden sector works [3].

In Refs. [1.2], we have assumed that

$$\varphi = \langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}} + \varphi_{\text{ph}} \,, \tag{2}$$

where $\langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}}$ is a spontaneously nonzero vacuum expectation value of the steron field φ , while $\varphi_{\text{ph}} \neq 0$ denotes the physical steron field. The value $\langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}} \neq 0$ has been used to generate the masses m_{ψ} , m_{φ} and M of sterinos, sterons and A bosons. The mass scale M of A bosons is typically expected to be large, but a moderate value for it is not a priori excluded. In addition, the term with $\langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}} \neq 0$ in the interaction (1) generates spontaneously a tiny sterino magnetic moment

$$\mu_{\psi} = \frac{f\zeta}{2M^2} \langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}}, \tag{3}$$

since the coupling (1) implies for sterinos (though they are electrically neutral) the effective magnetic interaction

$$-\frac{f\zeta}{2M^2} <\varphi>_{\text{vac}} \bar{\psi}\sigma_{\mu\nu}\psi F^{\mu\nu} \tag{4}$$

(cf. the effective coupling (8)).

Note that with the use of interaction Lagrangian (1) the following field equations hold for $A_{\mu\nu}$ and $F_{\mu\nu}$:

$$(\Box - M^2)A_{\mu\nu} = -\sqrt{f}(\varphi F_{\mu\nu} + \zeta \bar{\psi} \sigma_{\mu\nu} \psi) \tag{5}$$

and

$$\partial^{\nu}(F_{\mu\nu} + \sqrt{f}\,\varphi A_{\mu\nu}) = -j_{\mu} \ , \ F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\mu}A_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu}A_{\mu} \tag{6}$$

("supplemented Maxwell's equations"). Here, j_{μ} is the familiar Standard-Model electric current.

The field equation (5) shows that, beside the pair $\bar{\psi}\sigma_{\mu\nu}\psi$, the field pair $\varphi F_{\mu\nu}$ is a source of the massive field $A_{\mu\nu}$. Due to Eq. (2) with $\langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}} \neq 0$, the pair $\varphi F_{\mu\nu}$ in Eq. (5) generates spontaneously a source term $-\sqrt{f}\langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}} F_{\mu\nu}$ for the sterile mediating field $A_{\mu\nu}$, which is provided by the electromagnetic field $F_{\mu\nu}$ alone.

If momentum transfers mediated through the field $A_{\mu\nu}$ in virtual states are negligible versus the mass scale M, then it follows from Eq. (5) that approximately

$$A_{\mu\nu} \simeq \frac{\sqrt{f}}{M^2} \left(\varphi F_{\mu\nu} + \zeta \bar{\psi} \sigma_{\mu\nu} \psi \right) . \tag{7}$$

Then, the interaction (1) gives approximately the effective coupling (in an effective Lagrangian)

$$-\frac{1}{4}\frac{f}{M^2}\left(\varphi F_{\mu\nu} + \zeta \bar{\psi}\sigma_{\mu\nu}\psi\right)\left(\varphi F^{\mu\nu} + \zeta \bar{\psi}\sigma^{\mu\nu}\psi\right) \tag{8}$$

being an analogy of the Fermi coupling. Here, $\varphi = \langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}} + \varphi_{\text{ph}}$.

In Ref. [2], the new weak interaction (1) has been conjectured (more correctly) to be embedded in a more extended weak interaction displaying the overall electroweak symmetry spontaneously broken by the Standard-Model Higgs mechanism. In the present note, we will restrict ourselves to the simpler interaction (1).

2. Two kinds of sterile A bosons

The antisymmetric-tensor field $A_{\mu\nu}$ can be split into a vector and an axial three-dimensional fields $\vec{A}^{(E)} = \left(A_k^{(E)}\right)$ and $\vec{A}^{(B)} = \left(A_k^{(B)}\right)$ (k = 1, 2, 3) of spin 1 and parity - and +, respectively, in an analogy to the splitting of the electromagnetic field $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\mu}A_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu}A_{\mu}$ into the electric and magnetic three-dimensional fields $\vec{E} = (E_k)$ and $\vec{B} = (B_k)$ (k = 1, 2, 3),

$$(F_{\mu\nu}) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & E_1 & E_2 & E_3 \\ -E_1 & 0 & -B_3 & B_2 \\ -E_2 & B_3 & 0 & -B_1 \\ -E_3 & -B_2 & B_1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$
(9)

Here,

$$\vec{E} = -\partial_0 \vec{A} - \vec{\partial} A_0 = (-F_{k0}) \quad , \quad \vec{B} = \vec{\partial} \times \vec{A} = \left(-\frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_{klm} F_{lm}\right)$$
 (10)

with $\vec{A} = (A^k) = (-A_k)$ and $\vec{\partial} = (\partial_k) - (-\partial^k)$ (k = 1, 2, 3). In fact, defining

$$\vec{A}^{(E)} = (-A_{k0}) \quad , \quad \vec{A}^{(B)} = \left(-\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{klm}A_{lm}\right) \tag{11}$$

(k = 1, 2, 3), we obtain

$$(A_{\mu\nu}) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & A_1^{(E)} & A_2^{(E)} & A_3^{(E)} \\ -A_1^{(E)} & 0 & -A_3^{(B)} & A_2^{(B)} \\ -A_2^{(E)} & A_3^{(B)} & 0 & -A_1^{(B)} \\ -A_3^{(E)} & -A_2^{(B)} & A_1^{(B)} & 0 \end{pmatrix} = (A_{\mu\nu}^{(E)}) + (A_{\mu\nu}^{(B)}) . \tag{12}$$

From Eqs. (9) and (12) it follows that

$$F^{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu} = -2\left(\vec{E}^2 - \vec{B}^2\right) \quad , \quad A^{\mu\nu}A_{\mu\nu} = -2\left(\vec{A}^{(E)\,2} - \vec{A}^{(B)\,2}\right) \tag{13}$$

and

$$F^{\mu\nu}A_{\mu\nu} = -2\left(\vec{E} \cdot \vec{A}^{(E)} - \vec{B} \cdot \vec{A}^{(B)}\right). \tag{14}$$

On the other hand, making use of the matrix

$$(\sigma^{\mu\nu}) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i\alpha_1 & i\alpha_2 & i\alpha_3 \\ -i\alpha_1 & 0 & \sigma_3 & -\sigma_2 \\ -i\alpha_2 & -\sigma_3 & 0 & \sigma_1 \\ -i\alpha_3 & \sigma_2 & -\sigma_1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
(15)

of spin tensor $\sigma^{\mu\nu} = (i/2)[\gamma^{\mu}, \gamma^{\nu}]$, where $\vec{\alpha} = (\alpha_k) = (\gamma^0 \gamma^k) = (-i\sigma_{k0})$ and $\vec{\sigma} = (\sigma_k) = (\gamma_5 \vec{\alpha}) = ((1/2)\varepsilon_{klm}\sigma_{lm})$ (k = 1, 2, 3), we get

$$\sigma^{\mu\nu}A_{\mu\nu} = 2\left(i\vec{\alpha}\cdot\vec{A}^{(E)} - \vec{\sigma}\cdot\vec{A}^{(B)}\right). \tag{16}$$

In consequence of Eqs. (14) and (16), we can rewrite the interaction (1) as

$$\sqrt{f} \left[\left(\varphi \vec{E} - i \zeta \bar{\psi} \, \vec{\alpha} \, \psi \right) \cdot \vec{A}^E - \left(\varphi \vec{B} - \zeta \bar{\psi} \, \vec{\sigma} \psi \right) \cdot \vec{A}^{(B)} \right] \tag{17}$$

and so, the field equation [5] for $A_{\mu\nu}$ in the form

$$(\Box - M^2)\vec{A}^{(E)} = -\sqrt{f} \left(\varphi \vec{E} - i\zeta \bar{\psi} \,\vec{\alpha} \,\psi \right) ,$$

$$(\Box - M^2)\vec{A}^{(B)} = -\sqrt{f} \left(\varphi \vec{B} - \zeta \bar{\psi} \,\vec{\sigma} \,\psi \right) . \tag{18}$$

Here, as usual, $\varphi = \langle \varphi \rangle_{vac} + \varphi_{ph}$ with $\langle \varphi_{vac} \rangle \neq 0$.

We can see from Eqs. (18) that the electric and magnetic fields \vec{E} and \vec{B} are involved respectively in the sources of two different sterile mediating fields $\vec{A}^{(E)}$ and $\vec{A}^{(B)}$ being parts of the relativistic structure $A_{\mu\nu}$. In particular, in Eqs (18) there are source terms

$$-\sqrt{f} < \varphi >_{\text{vac}} \vec{E} \quad , \quad -\sqrt{f} < \varphi >_{\text{vac}} \vec{B}$$
 (19)

spontaneously generated by $\langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}}$ and provided by \vec{E} and \vec{B} fields alone.

The sterile A bosons of two kinds described by the fields $\vec{A}^{(E)}$ and $\vec{A}^{(B)}$ — when they propagate freely in space — get the following wave functions:

$$\vec{A}_{\vec{k}}^{(E,B)}(x) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\omega_A}} \vec{e}^{(E,B)} e^{-ik_A \cdot x}, \qquad (20)$$

where $k_A = (\omega_A, \vec{k}_A)$ with $\omega_A = \sqrt{\vec{k}_A^2 + M^2}$, while $\vec{e}^{(E,B)} = \vec{e}_a^{(E,B)}$ (a = 1, 2, 3) are three orthonormal linear polarizations for $A^{(E)}$ and $A^{(B)}$ bosons, satisfying the formulae

$$\vec{e}_a^{(E,B)} \cdot \vec{e}_b^{(E,B)} = \delta_{ab} \ (a,b=1,2,3) \ , \ \sum_{a=1}^3 e_{ak}^{(E,B)} e_{al}^{(E,B)} = \delta_{kl}$$
 (21)

with $\vec{e}_a^{(E,B)} = (e_{ak}^{(E,B)}) \ (a = 1, 2, 3).$

3. Decays of $A^{(E,B)}$ bosons into charged-fermion pairs

The sterile mediating bosons $A^{(E,B)}$ are unstable. Their simple decays are those into pairs of charged fermions, $A^{(E,B)} \to \gamma^* \to \bar{f}f$, if $M > 2m_f$ (here, for instance, $f = e^-$ or p; if $M < 2m_p$, the decays $A^{(E,B)} \to \bar{p}p$ are forbidden). Such processes are described by the coupling

$$\sqrt{f} < \varphi >_{\text{vac}} \left(\vec{E} \cdot \vec{A}^{(E)} - \vec{B} \cdot \vec{A}^{(B)} \right)$$
 (22)

being a part of the interaction (17), jointly with the Standard-Model electromagnetic interaction $-e_f \bar{\psi}_f \gamma^{\mu} \psi_f A_{\mu}$ of f fermions. In this case, the corresponding S matrix elements take in the lowest order the form (in an obvious notation) [1]:

$$S(A^{(E)} \to \bar{f}f) = e_f \sqrt{f} < \varphi >_{\text{vac}} \left[\frac{1}{(2\pi)^9} \frac{m_f^2}{E_1 E_2 2\omega_A} \right]^{1/2} \left[\bar{u}_f(p_1) \frac{1}{i} \left(\omega_A \vec{\gamma} - \vec{k}_A \beta \right) \cdot \vec{e}^{(E)} v_f(p_2) \right]$$

$$\times \frac{1}{k_A^2} (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(p_1 + p_2 - k_A)$$
(23)

and

$$S(A^{(B)} \to \bar{f}f) = e_f \sqrt{f} < \varphi >_{\text{vac}} \left[\frac{1}{(2\pi)^9} \frac{m_f^2}{E_1 E_2 2\omega_A} \right]^{1/2} \left[\bar{u}_f(p_1) \frac{1}{i} \left(\vec{k}_A \times \vec{\gamma} \right) \cdot \vec{e}^{(B)} v_f(p_2) \right] \times \frac{1}{k_A^2} (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(p_1 + p_2 - k_A) .$$
(24)

Then, the differential decay rates

$$\frac{d^{6}\Gamma(A^{(E,B)} \to \bar{f}f)}{d^{3}\vec{p}_{1}d^{3}\vec{p}_{2}} = (2\pi)^{3} \sum_{u,v} \frac{1}{3} \sum_{c(E,B)} \frac{|S(A^{(E,B)} \to \bar{f}f)|^{2}}{(2\pi)^{4}\delta^{4}(0)}$$
(25)

give

$$\frac{d^{6}\Gamma(A^{(E)} \to \bar{f}f)}{d^{3}\bar{p}_{1}d^{3}\bar{p}_{2}} = \frac{e_{f}^{2}f < \varphi >_{\text{vac}}^{2}}{(2\pi)^{2}} \frac{1}{6E_{1}E_{2}\omega_{A}} \left[1 - 2\frac{E_{1}E_{2}}{M^{2}} + 2\left(\frac{m_{f}\omega_{A}}{M^{2}}\right)^{2} \right] \times \delta^{4}(p_{1} + p_{2} - k_{A})$$
(26)

and

$$\frac{d^{6}\Gamma(A^{(B)} \to \bar{f}f)}{d^{3}\bar{p}_{1}d^{3}\bar{p}_{2}} = \frac{e_{f}^{2}f < \varphi >_{\text{vac}}^{2}}{(2\pi)^{2}} \frac{1}{6E_{1}E_{2}\omega_{A}} \left[\frac{\vec{k}_{A}^{2}}{M^{2}} - \left(\frac{\vec{p}_{1} \times \vec{k}_{A}}{M^{2}} \right)^{2} - \left(\frac{\vec{p}_{2} \times \vec{k}_{A}}{M^{2}} \right)^{2} \right] \times \delta^{4}(p_{1} + p_{2} - k_{A}).$$
(27)

At rest (when $\vec{k}_A = 0$), the total decay rates in the channels $A^{(E,B)} \to \bar{f}f$,

$$\Gamma(A^{(E,B)} \to \bar{f}f) = \int d^3\vec{p}_1 \, d^3\vec{p}_2 \frac{d^6\Gamma(A^{(E,B)} \to \bar{f}f)}{d^3\vec{p}_1 \, d^3\vec{p}_2} \,, \tag{28}$$

are

$$\Gamma(A^{(E)} \to \bar{f}f) = \frac{e_f^2 f < \varphi >_{\text{vac}}^2}{24\pi M} \left[1 + \left(\frac{2m_f}{M}\right)^2 \right] \left[1 - \left(\frac{2m_f}{M}\right)^2 \right]^{1/2}$$
 (29)

and

$$\Gamma(A^{(B)} \to \bar{f}f) = 0, \tag{30}$$

where $\vec{p_1} + \vec{p_2} = \vec{k_A} = 0$ and $E_1 + E_2 = \omega_A = M$ (so, $E_1 = E_2 = M/2$ and $|\vec{p_1}| = |\vec{p_2}| = \sqrt{(M/2)^2 - m_f^2}$ with $M > 2m_f$).

If tentatively $f \sim e^2$, $\zeta \sim 1$ and $m_{\psi}^2 \sim m_{\varphi}^2 (1 \text{ to } 1/4) \sim \langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}}^2 \sim M^2 (1 \text{ to } 10^{-4})$, then it follows from the thermal condition (39) for sterinos discussed in Section 4 that $M \sim (650 \text{ to } 1.6) \text{ GeV}$, and the formula (29) gives

$$\Gamma(A^{(E)} \to \bar{f}f) \sim \frac{e^4 M(1 \text{ to } 10^{-4})}{24\pi} \sim 72 \text{ MeV to } 17 \text{ eV} = 1.1 \times 10^{23} \frac{1}{\text{s}} \text{ to } 2.6 \times 10^{16} \frac{1}{\text{s}}, \quad (31)$$

when $e_f^2 = e^2$ and $m_f^2 \ll M^2$ ($\hbar = 1 = c$).

A simple production process for sterile mediating bosons $A^{(E,B)}$ is the inelastic Compton effect $\gamma f \to \gamma^* f \to Af$ at energies high enough to produce the mass M.

4. Sterinos as candidates for thermal dark matter

In our model of hidden sector of the Universe, stable sterinos are natural candidates for the thermal cold dark matter (sterons are unstable, decaying e.g. as $\varphi_{\rm ph} \to \gamma A^* \to \gamma \gamma$ through the part $-(1/2)\sqrt{f}$ ($\langle \varphi \rangle_{\rm vac} + \varphi_{\rm ph}$) $F_{\mu\nu}A^{\mu\nu}$ of the interaction (1)).

The abundance of dark matter presently observed by WMAP, $\Omega_{\rm DM}h^2 \simeq 0.11$, gives for the thermal average of total annihilation cross-section of a weakly interacting sterino-antisterino pair (multiplied by sterino relative velocity) the familiar thermodynamical estimate [4,1]

$$<\sigma_{\rm ann} v_{\rm DM}> \simeq {\rm pb} \simeq \frac{8}{\pi} \frac{10^{-3}}{{\rm TeV}^2}$$
 (32)

(pb = 10^{-36} cm², $c = 1 = \hbar$). We will put here

$$\sigma_{\rm ann} \simeq \sigma(\bar{\psi}\psi \to e^+e^-) + \sigma(\bar{\psi}\psi \to \varphi_{\rm ph}\gamma),$$
 (33)

where the processes $\bar{\psi}\psi \to \gamma^* \to e^+e^-$ and $\bar{\psi}\psi \to \varphi_{\rm ph}\gamma$ are approximately described by the parts of effective coupling (8),

$$-\frac{1}{2}\frac{f\zeta}{M^2} < \varphi >_{\text{vac}} F_{\mu\nu} \bar{\psi} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \psi , \qquad (34)$$

jointly with the electron electromagnetic interaction $e \, \bar{\psi}_e \gamma^\mu \psi_e A_\mu$, and

$$-\frac{1}{2}\frac{f\zeta}{M^2}\varphi_{\rm ph}F_{\mu\nu}\bar{\psi}\sigma^{\mu\nu}\psi\,, (35)$$

respectively.

Then, we calculate in the sterino-antisterino centre-of-mass frame (where $v_{\rm DM}=2v_{\psi}$) the following annihilation cross-sections [1]:

$$\sigma(\bar{\psi}\psi \to e^+e^-)2v_{\psi} = \frac{1}{12\pi} \left(\frac{e\,f\zeta < \varphi >_{\text{vac}}}{M^2}\right)^2 \left(1 + \frac{2m_{\psi}^2}{E_{\psi}^2}\right)$$
 (36)

and

$$\sigma(\bar{\psi}\psi \to \varphi_{\rm ph}\gamma)2v_{\psi} = \frac{1}{6\pi} \left(\frac{f\zeta}{M^2}\right)^2 \left(1 + \frac{2m_{\psi}^2}{E_{\psi}^2}\right) \left(E_{\psi}^2 - \frac{m_{\varphi}^2}{4}\right) , \qquad (37)$$

where in the first channel the electron mass m_e is neglected $(E_e = E_{\psi} \ge m_{\psi} \gg m_e)$. Hence, as $E_{\psi} \simeq m_{\psi}$ for cold dark matter, we get

$$\sigma_{\rm ann}v_{\rm DM} \simeq \left[\sigma(\bar{\psi}\psi \to e^+e^-) + \sigma(\bar{\psi}\psi \to \varphi_{\rm ph}\gamma)\right] 2v_{\psi} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(\frac{f\zeta}{M^2}\right)^2 \left(\frac{e^2}{2} < \varphi >_{\rm vac}^2 + m_{\psi}^2 - \frac{m_{\varphi}^2}{4}\right)$$
(38)

 $(e^2 = 4\pi\alpha = 0.0917 \text{ with } \alpha = 1/137)$. Here, $\langle \sigma_{\text{ann}} v_{\text{DM}} \rangle = \sigma_{\text{ann}} v_{\text{DM}}$. Comparing Eqs. (32) and (38), we obtain

$$\frac{1}{16} (f\zeta)^2 \left(\frac{e^2}{2} < \varphi >_{\text{vac}}^2 + m_{\psi}^2 - \frac{m_{\varphi}^2}{4}\right) \simeq \frac{M^4}{\text{TeV}^2} \times 10^{-3}.$$
 (39)

This is a condition for sterinos to be thermal cold dark matter in our model of hidden sector.

Putting tentatively $f \sim e^2$, $\zeta \sim 1$ and $m_{\psi}^2 \sim m_{\varphi}^2 \sim \langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}}^2 \sim M^2$, we estimate from the condition (39) that $M \sim 650$ GeV. Alternatively, putting tentatively $f \sim e^2$, $\zeta \sim 1$ and $m_{\psi}^2 \sim m_{\varphi}^2/4 \sim \langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}}^2 \sim M^2$, we calculate that $M \sim 160$ GeV. Eventually, if tentatively $f \sim e^2$, $\zeta \sim 1$ and $m_{\psi}^2 \sim m_{\varphi}^2/4 \sim \langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}}^2 \sim M^2 \times 10^{-4}$, then $M \sim 1.6$ GeV (here, M is $\langle 2m_p \rangle$). In the last case, particles of the hidden sector are light $(m_{\psi} \sim m_{\varphi}/2 \sim 16 \text{ MeV})$.

5. Conclusions

In this note, we have emphasized a two-level structure of the proposed model of hidden sector of the Universe weakly coupled with its Standard-Model sector through the "photonic portal". On the first level, the Standard-Model electric current j_{μ} acts as the source of the electromagnetic gauge field $F_{\mu\nu}$,

$$\partial^{\nu} \left[F_{\mu\nu} + \sqrt{f} (\langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}} + \varphi_{\text{ph}}) A_{\mu\nu} \right] = -j_{\mu} \quad , \quad F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\mu} A_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu} A_{\mu} \,, \tag{40}$$

while on the second level, the electromagnetic field $F_{\mu\nu}$ multiplied by $\langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}} \neq 0$ becomes in a spontaneous way a source of a sterile nongauge field $A_{\mu\nu}$ mediating interactions in the hidden sector,

$$(\Box - M^2) A_{\mu\nu} = -\sqrt{f} \left[(\langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}} + \varphi_{\text{ph}}) F_{\mu\nu} + \zeta \bar{\psi} \sigma_{\mu\nu} \psi \right] . \tag{41}$$

A simple two-level process is here $A \to \gamma^* \to \bar{f}f$ described in Section 3. The familiar

Standard Model has, on the contrary, a one-level structure, where its currents, treated on the same footing, are sources of all their gauge fields.

Beside Eqs. (40) and (41), the sterino and steron fields, ψ and $\varphi = \langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}} + \varphi_{\text{ph}}$, satisfy the sterile-matter field equations

$$\left(i\gamma^{\mu}\partial_{\mu} - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{f}\,\zeta\sigma_{\mu\nu}A^{\mu\nu} - m_{\psi}\right)\psi = 0$$
(42)

and

$$(\Box - m_{\varphi}^2)\varphi_{\rm ph} = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{f} F_{\mu\nu}A^{\mu\nu} . \tag{43}$$

The masses of sterile particles, m_{ψ} , m_{φ} and M, can be spontaneously generated by $\langle \varphi \rangle_{\text{vac}} \neq 0$ (what introduces necessarily additional weak couplings of φ_{ph} in Eqs. (40)—(43)) [1].

As mentioned at the end of Introduction, our proposed two-level structure of the Universe can be embedded in a more extended two-level structure displaying the overall electroweak symmetry spontaneously broken by the Standard-Model Higgs mechanism [2].

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